

"Incorporating Allflex activity and rumination collars was a key factor in reaching higher levels of productivity and efficiency."
Christian Chiavassa, Director, Grupo Chiavassa

Grupo Chiavassa Reduces Cow Mortality Rates with Allflex Heatime® Pro

BACKGROUND

In 1982, Carlos Chiavassa, a second generation farmer took over the family business in Carlos Pellegrina in the Santa Fe Province of Argentina. Later, his wife Pini, and his four children Cristian, Soledad, Cristóbal, and Rocío joined him, and the Chiavassa Group was born, with each member playing a specific role in building the farm's success..

In 2010 Carlos installed the first internal rotary milking parlor in Argentina, which led Chiavassa Group to become one of the main milk producers in the country.

CHALLENGES

While improving reproduction performance was on the Group's mind, the real catalyst for change was the need to reduce the herd's mortality rate. With the passage of time other areas in which monitoring technology could be of use – such as feeding – became evident.

AT A GLANCE

Company: Grupo Chiavassa
Location: Carlos Pellegrini, Santa Fe Province, Argentina
Herd size: 1400 cows
Production system: Compost barn TMR

Challenges

- Reduce cow mortality rate
- Empower abilities of farm staff

System

- Allflex Heatime® Pro System with HRLDn tags for real-time heat detection and health monitoring

Benefits

- Cow mortality was reduced to 6%
- Improved diagnosis resulted in more effective treatments
- Ending visual heat detection allowed staff responsibilities to be reorganized, and new roles assigned to the team
- More precise adjustment of the pre-calvers pen
- More efficient daily workflow

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SYSTEM

The Allflex Heatime® Pro system with 1100 Allflex HRLDn neck tags for real-time heat detection and rumination, activity and panting monitoring were installed in 2011. In 2013, Chiavassa Group bought an additional 700 neck tags. Currently, the farm has 1800 neck tags on adult cows and holder heifers.

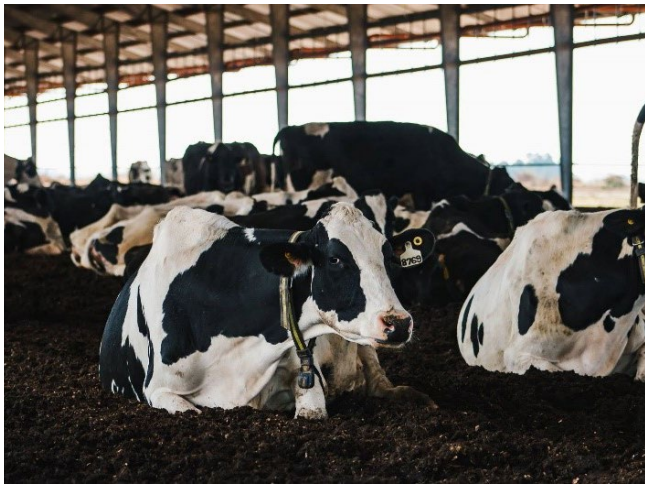
BENEFITS

From the animal health perspective, in addition to adult cow mortality being reduced to 6%, Hernán Bertotti, veterinarian of the Chiavassa Group, comments that the farm has significantly improved efficiency, since the neck tags facilitate better diagnoses, and therefore more effective treatments. Cristian Chiavassa, Group Director, adds: "We can diagnose diseases three days before symptoms appear because the cow modifies her behavior pattern."

Regarding reproduction, there are currently no people involved in heat detection as it is done completely through the Allflex Heatime® Pro system. This allowed Chiavassa Group to reorganize work within the team and incorporate new functions that were not previously performed. At the same time there is a significant improvement in the conception rates of heifers, rising from 35% to 60%. Hernán explains that the use of Allflex neck tags has allowed the Group to optimize the moment of insemination, which without a doubt, has been the determining factor.

The length of cows' stay in the pre-calving pen also improved considerably after the incorporation of Allflex technology. Before, abortions or post-pregnancy heats were not detected, so, frequently, cows that should not have been admitted to the pre-calving pen were admitted, resulting in an unnecessarily long stay. This has now been corrected, achieving a very tight typical stay of 25 days per cow.

Finally, Hernán comments that in terms of the team's daily schedule, "starting every morning looking at the Allflex system's reports allows us to organize the work day much better, which is an important element in our overall productivity."







Hernán Bertotti, veterinarian of Chiavassa Group

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About Allflex

www.allflex.global

Allflex, part of MSD Animal Health, is the world leader in the design, development, manufacturing and delivery of solutions for animal identification, monitoring and traceability. Our solutions empower farmers to act in a timely manner, to safeguard their animals' health, while achieving optimal production outcomes for a healthy food supply.

Through its commitment to the Science of Healthier Animals®, MSD Animal Health offers veterinarians, farmers, pet owners and governments one of the widest ranges of veterinary pharmaceuticals, vaccines and health management solutions and services. MSD Animal Health is dedicated to preserving and improving the health, well-being and performance of animals and the people who care for them.

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